

Ward 6 Neighborhood Planning Assembly,
Greek Orthodox Church, 600 So. Willard Street, April 5, 2018
Draft Minutes

Present: by head count, 28, including presenters and steering committee present:
Brian MacDonald, Michelle Mraz, Charles Simpson, Matt Grady

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Agenda:

1. Minutes from March 1 meeting presented and approved.
2. Public Comment Period:
 - a. Joel FitzGerald, Republican candidate for Ward 6 City Council, thanked the others in the race and said he planned to actively participate in our NPA.
3. Natural Lands Conservation and Connection Initiative: Zoe Richards and Alicia Daniels. Following a resolution of the City Council passed in June 2017, this group was created as a collaborative project to improve stewardship and trail access to the city's open spaces, some of which are also natural lands. Forty-nine percent of the city is open space. Its "natural wonders" include Rock Point's cedar pine forest, Centennial Woods, our lake and the Winooski River, the sea cave, rare yellow ladies slippers, a specimen of very rare American chestnut, and a variety of mammals from red fox and bobcats to birds including the "Burlington" oriole (called the Baltimore oriole elsewhere). Challenges to planning public access stem from the multiple ownership of tracks within such areas as the Arms Forest and the Interval. Question (Q): will the Elks Club property be developed? Answer (A). No, due to zoning issues.
4. Chittenden Solid Waste District, Lauren Layn and Michele Morris. They discussed Act 148, the Universal Recycling Law. CSWD is composed of the 18 towns within Chittenden County and has access to the state's single site for solid waste disposal, 70 miles distant, and projected to be full in 8 years. Better treatment of waste including sorting, recycling and composting could reduce landfill waste, removing 15% if blue-bin waste were removed, 10% if all organic waste was composed, and 19% if metals and textiles were removed from the waste stream. This totals half of what is now being landfilled. Act 148, passed in 2012, moves the state to a "materials management" approach and mandates composting of food scraps by 2018 for curbside waste haulers; by 2020, no food scraps will be allowed in trash by households and businesses. Workshops on compliance which include access to composting buckets will be run by Lauren Layn. Info at 802, 872 8100-x234; llayn@cswd.net, or 872-8111. Q. Where can textiles be left now? A. Any drop-off center, with Pine Street being the closest, or if left at Goodwill, they will discard to us what they can't use.
5. Department of Public Works: Robert Goulding. The Sustainable Infrastructure Plan is at <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/DPW/Reinvestmet/>. DPW has a portal with project announcements. There will be a robust construction effort this summer with up to 5 miles of new sidewalks, 3 miles of new paving, and some curb work along with lining of water pipes and some work on wastewater pipes. We are doubling the effort on infrastructure upgrades. See link for updates. 42% of city pipes are 75 or more years

old. Q. Is the present grinding down and resurfacing give us the surface longevity you expect? A. We will be restoring the underlayment, not just the top coat which will give us a decade of use. Report problems to www.SeeClickFix.com. On April 10, 5-7:30, at Contois there will be a presentation on the design plans for Bank and Cherry Streets.

6. Burlington School Board: Jeff Wick. He thanks the community for supporting the proposed school budget. The budget has been well-managed over the last 3 years with expenditures within budget targets. The exact tax impact for this budget is still unknown due to state issues. Michael Fisher is the new chair of the board. Q. Are you making progress on transparency? A. Yes, our comprehensive budget at 19 pages is on line and totals \$84 million. I will be proposing a community Q and A session on the budget and expect this to happen. Q. Will there be a reduction in force (RIF) as presently planned? A. The present RIF involves 12 interventionists, two in each primary and middle school, as well as some classroom teachers at the high school. We have tabled our look at this until our first board meeting. Q. Are all contracts closed? A. No. The para-educators contract is still not settled. We need to address this.

7. CEDO: Noelle MacKay. Our web site has a construction update on City Place Burlington, also reachable via the main City web page. Expect lane closings on Bank Street at various times in April. Pile driving may cause vibrations in the area starting 4/16. We have a parking map on-line to help with downtown access. On April 10, 5-7:30, there will be a presentation of conceptual designs for Bank and Cherry Streets. Twenty-seven local contractors and a total of 650 workers will be involved in the construction process. We have a \$65,000 grant from the Department of Labor for job training in construction skills. We also have \$50,000 for each of the next two years to help local business cope with the disruption. Q. What's happening with Macy's? A. I don't know. Q. What about affordable housing? A. The inclusionary zoning formula mandates that 20% of the project will be affordable, meaning renting at no more than 65% of the AMI. That means roughly \$900 for a studio, \$1090 for a one-bedroom. <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Inclusionary-Zoning>

8. Q. Will the restored blocks be only for pedestrians? A. No, they will accommodate two-way vehicle traffic. I've heard that some think the latest administrative changes to the design mean that the street-level on some sides of the project will be parking only. That's not true. There will be retail on all sides of the buildings. The ground level parking will be behind the retail and the retail will be shallower than previously planned. The parking won't be seen, other than at access points. Q. Can we expect a downtown future with no department stores? A. This seems to be part of a national trend.

9. Department of Public Works: Nicole Losch. We are just initiating the Winooski Avenue Corridor Study, which looks at the entire length of the roadway. Our goal is to introduce complete street design, connectivity, and safety. RSG is the consulting firm and the CCRPA is the lead sponsor, providing 85% of the funding for the study. There will be a community meeting in mid-July on progress. We will engage the community at each step in the process. Charles of your steering committee is on the advisory group.

Motion to adjourn moved, seconded, and approved at 8:54pm.